52. Eshwar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Sabarkantha

53. Sarvodaya Kendra
Banaskantha

54. Kundanpur Gram Paraspar Sahyogi Mandal
Kundanpur

55. SARTHI
Panchmahal

56. Manav Kalyan Trust
Surat

57. National Rural Development Group
Ahmedabad

58. Asmita Smvardhan Trust
Rajkot

59. Shri Bhal Vikas Sanghan Kshetra
Dholka

60. Shri Sadbhav Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Shanduka

61. Indian Council for Training & Development
Kheda

62. Manav Kalyan Trust
Surat

63. Gram Shakti Shramjivini
Ahmedabad

64. Gram Laxmi
Ahmedabad

65. Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanstha
Kutch

66. Gujarat Gram Bharti
Kutch

67. Shakti Pratisthan
Kutch

68. Rural Development Foundation
Kutch

69. Mamta Kendra
Mehsana

70. Lok Jagruti Yuvak Mandal
Sabarkantha

71. Shri Bodiyar Vikas Yuvak Sangh
Mehsana

72. Shri Navyuvak Mandal
Valsad

73. Sad Vichar Parivar
Idar

74. The Navjagruti Yuvak Kendra Sansthan
Sabarkantha

75. Sri Arbuda Khadi Gramodyog Mandal
Sabarkantha

76. Sri Vadhiyar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Mehsana

77. Sri Swami Vivekanand Yuvak Mandal
Kutch

78. Sri Gram Vikas Mandal
Mehsana

79. Bhal Nalkantha Sanghan Kshetra Samiti
Ahmedabad

80. Bhal Nalkantha Prayogik Sangh
Ahmedabad

81. Ahmedabad Zilla Gramya Vikas Trust
Ahmedabad

82. Institute for Studying and Transformenting
Ahmedabad

[English]

Tata Communications

1339. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tata Communications Ltd. (TCL) has become the first company to launch cellular service amongst the circlewide licence holders;

(b) if so, whether the company launched services in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad on December 13, 1996;

(c) whether the company's commercial launch has been delayed pending approval from the technology evaluation centre of the DOT for its network;

(d) if so, whether Hyderabad has become 5th city of the country to have the cellular services;

(e) the time by which all the cities of the country are likely to be provided with cellular services;

(f) whether the TCL is offering three tariff structures to its subcribers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cellular service in Hyderabad and Secunderabad was commercially launched by M/S Tata Communications on 11th December, 1996.

(c) The company registered its request with Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) for testing their Cellular Network on 23.10.1996 and the clearance by TEC was issued on 29.11.96. Considering that this was the first testing of Circle Cellular Network, the time taken by TEC appears reasonable.

(d) Hyderabad is the first city in Telecom Circles where Cellular Service was commercially launched.

(e) The licenses for cellular service have been granted for 18 out of 20 Telecom Territorial Circles. As per the terms and conditions of the licences, the companies have to cover atleast 50% of the District

Headquarters within 3 years of the effective date of the same.

(f) and (g) TCL is offering 3 tier tariff structure of Air Time rates as follows with discount to bulk uses :

(i)	Peak traffic Hours	Rs. 16.80/minute
(ii)	Normal traffic hours	Rs. 8.40/minute
(iii)	Off Peak traffic hours	Rs. 4.20/minute

Saleable Rooms at Howrah

1340. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of saleable rooms available for Retiring Rooms and Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah as a part of the passenger amenities and the total number of rooms allotted only for Officers Rest House in New Coaching Complex, Officers Rest House at Old Complex at North Concourse (3rd Floor) and Officers Rest House at South Concourse (1st Floor);

(b) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms for passengers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details are as under :-

Accommodation in

Retiring room : No. of beds = 16

Rail Yatri Niwas :

AC double bedded = 8 (Total 16 beds)

Non-AC double bedded = 14 (Total 28 beds)

5 bedded dormitory 5 rooms (Total 25 beds)

Non-AC 3 bedded 6 rooms (Total 18 berths)

Seven bedded 4 rooms (Total 28 beds)

Accommodation in Officers' Rest Rooms at Old Complex in North Concourse (3rd Floor) :-

Non-AC 2 bedded room = 10

2 bedded room = 2

2 bedded room for N.F. Railway = 2

2 bedded room for Howrah Division = 6

Officers Rest Room at South Concourse (1st Floor)

Non-AC Rest House = 4

AC Rest House = 2

Officers Rest House at New Coaching Complex:

Non-AC 2 bedded at 3rd Floor = 14

Non-AC 2 bedded at 4th Floor = 14

AC Rest House 2 bedded 4th Floor = 12

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present arrangement is considered sufficient to cater to the needs of the passengers.

[Translation]

Appointments in Communications Department

1341. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of appointments made in the departments/undertakings of Ministry during the last three years till date;

(b) the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes in the above appointments;

(c) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes are still lying vacant at present in the departments/undertakings the Ministry; and

(d) the date by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up and the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1342. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion of metre gauge railway line between Chennai and Madurai into broad gauge line is being undertaken; and

(b) if so, the status of the project and the time by which the said route on broad gauge is thrown open for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion work is in full swing on Chennai - Tiruchchirappalli and Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul sections. These works are presently targetted to be completed by March'98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Dindigul and Madurai are already linked with a BG line.

Supply of Wooden Sleepers

1343. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge orders for the supply of wooden sleepers have been placed on MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives when more than 2000 sets are awaiting despatch from various factories and an equal